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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2018
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [NL](#) [BO](#)
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/BELARUS: DUTCH SUPPORT EU STATEMENT,
POSSIBLE BILATERAL MESSAGE

REF: A. SECSTATE 30007

[1](#)B. FALLS-GEE EMAIL 3/28/08

Classified By: POLITICAL OFFICER ERIC FALLS FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

(C) On March 28, 2008, POLOFF delivered reftel points to Natascha Soons, Dutch MFA policy officer for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ms. Soons shared a draft EU presidency statement, to be released March 28, expressing concern about the treatment of the U.S. ambassador to Minsk and her staff. The Dutch support the draft, which also calls on Belarusian authorities to release Mr. Kazulin, to refrain from further arrests, and to stop persecuting civil society. Ms. Soons indicated that the MFA may call in the Belarusian ambassador in the Hague to discuss Dutch concerns, but the MFA would not issue a public statement given the EU's planned statement.. Soons added that the EU had recently extended the visa ban for one year and was examining options for a response should Belarus release Kazulin.
Gallagher